

# July 2021 The Story

***All are Welcome  
No Exceptions!***

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit:**

**Celebrate the Eucharist regularly**

**Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study**

**Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love.**

**Nurture God's people as we grow in Christ**

**Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God's**

## **Join Our Season of Rebuilding**

In mid-June, St. Thomas parishioners finally began gathering for in-person worship indoors! Likewise, St. Thomas Clinic began seeing patients inside! For both church and clinic, inside activity was curtailed in early 2020, initially due to closing of the building, then due to COVID-19 restrictions that gradually relaxed as vaccinations increased and cases decreased. Now, I think St. Thomas finds itself not only in the season of summer, but a season of rebuilding.

Fortunately, we're blessed by a core of parishioners attending regularly again. However, some families have been consistently absent, outdoors at the Shelter House and indoors. Perhaps health, packed schedules, work, travel or vaccination status played a role. But it will be vital to rebuilding to find ways to show up, and to check on and welcome back those who've been away.

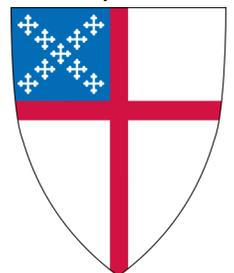
Under Cheryl Faust's leadership, our service schedule has ramped back up. Holy Eucharist services are now again graced with crucifers, altar servers, Altar Guild volunteers, ushers, etc. It will be critical to rebuilding to recruit more volunteers for every ministry, from those who graciously participated before, and from newcomers.

Junior Warden Steve Wahlberg and his dedicated crew have revitalized efforts to care for our building and grounds. It will be important to our rebuilding for that crew to grow.

It's been gratifying to see St. Thomas continue education online. Jamison Allen and Teresa Voorhees led youth classes. During Saturday virtual coffee hours organized by Jan Skopecek, I presented Lenten Adult Forums on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book "Love is the Way." Again, it will be vital to rebuilding for youth and adults to propose and attend classes.

Whatever your ministry, now's a great time to find new or traditional ways to help St. Thomas rebuild and renew.

--Fr. Whitney





## Livestream Volunteers Needed

Please consider helping out with one of St. Thomas's newest ministries, which has played a key role in reaching our parishioners and worshippers from other communities during the pandemic. St. Thomas is currently looking for volunteers to help with our Facebook Live streaming. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry please contact Eric Smith at [esmith194@comcast.net](mailto:esmith194@comcast.net) or me at [jwcraftrutan@yahoo.com](mailto:jwcraftrutan@yahoo.com).

--Joshua Craft-Rutan

## An Invitation from the Junior Warden

Hello, I hope everyone can come out and enjoy the grounds of St. Thomas this summer! We now have immediate openings for lawn mowers, gardeners, weeders, and painters for outside buildings. Come share your talents. For more information, please contact me at (720) 220-2920 or [justssjlwahlberg@gmail.com](mailto:justssjlwahlberg@gmail.com) or Fr. Whitney at (317) 383-7876 or [whitinindy@hotmail.com](mailto:whitinindy@hotmail.com). Thanks!

--Steve Wahlberg





Fr. Whitney Smith will be on vacation the week of July 11-17. The Most Rev. Bob Giannini has agreed to preach and preside at the St. Thomas service on Sunday, July 11. The retired Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, he has been a frequent supply priest at St. Thomas. He said he looks forward to being with our parishioners once again.

### **Panera Bread Sign-up**

St. Thomas resumed our ministry with Panera Bread with a slight change. The end of day bread will be picked up at Panera Bread Sunday night and delivered to the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County Monday morning. Please use the link below for more information and to sign up to help. Questions: contact Steve Wahlberg.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BA9A62BA46-panera>

With the return to indoor worship, we have a need for Greeters, Lector's, Eucharist Ministers and Acolytes. If you have thought of serving in any of these ways during worship, please give Cheryl Faust a call at 317-374-3197 or email [mammyfaust@hotmail.com](mailto:mammyfaust@hotmail.com) or



## ST. THOMAS NIGHT AT THE INDIANS!

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

\*\*\*Section 117 in the shade\*\*\*

**Deadline to reserve your seats is Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Please email me at [j\\_stogsdill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j_stogsdill@sbcglobal.net) and let me know how many tickets you need.**

Tickets are \$14 per person, which includes a discount. Kids over the age of 2 must have a ticket. I will buy a block of tickets in advance, using the digital option, which is more convenient than mailing or visiting the stadium. You may pay me in cash after church or by sending a check to Julie Stogsdill, 347 Palmer Ln., Apt. C, Greenwood, IN 46143-1851 and I will email your tickets to you.

Bring your appetite to Tuesday's game, when hot dogs, peanuts, potato chips, Cracker Jacks and popcorn are all available for just \$1 each.

--Julie Stogsdill



Now that I'm back from my trip to Philmont Scout Ranch work will resume as I work to complete the next phase of my Eagle Scout project in the Memorial Garden. Please watch for email sign-ups in the next few weeks. If you would like to help, please contact me at [reid\\_smith05@icloud.com](mailto:reid_smith05@icloud.com) and include my mom in copy [karens\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:karens_99@hotmail.com)

Thanks for your support!

Reid Smith



# July Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 2 Mel Archer & Jacob Phillips
- 4 Jen Tullis
- 10 Gabriel Ring & Fran Thompson
- 11 Judy Thompson
- 13 Roxanne Allen
- 14 Ray Hooten & Phil Warrenburg
- 15 Jamison Allen

## Anniversaries

- 12 Mark & Shelli Anderson
- 16 Ann & William Glass
- 18 Ray & Susie Hooten
- 29 Candy & Jim Phillips

## ST. THOMAS VESTRY

### The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2021--2023)

- 2021 .....Robin Kares, Joshua Craft-Rutan, Jan Skopecek
- 2022 .....Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke
- 2023 .....Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg

### The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

- Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith
- Senior Warden ..... Dave Buchholz
- Junior Warden .....Steven Wahlberg
- Clerk ..... Karen Smith
- Treasurer .....Marti Ramsey
- Organist/Choir Director .....Heather Orvek
- Assistant Treasurers .....Robin Kares, Mike Ramsey, Eric Smith

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Father Whitney at whitinindy@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.